

CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling a digital media recorder capable of recording digital media sequences on a digital media carrier, comprising the steps of:

- extracting, from an input media sequence, a media sub-sequence,
- calculating a sub-sequence digital fingerprint from the media sub-sequence,
- comparing the sub-sequence fingerprint with at least one first reference

5 fingerprint, said first reference fingerprint being fetched from a primary database of fingerprints, yielding a first comparison value,

- depending on the first comparison value, allowing recording of the input media sequence on the media carrier,

10 - depending on the first comparison value, obstructing recording of the input media sequence on the media carrier,

- depending on at least the first comparison value, updating the primary database with information that the digital media sequence has been recorded on the media carrier.

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2. A method according to claim 1, where the primary database of fingerprints includes a copy count number and a copy limit number associated with fingerprints in the list, where the step of comparing the sub-sequence fingerprint with the first reference fingerprint includes comparing the copy count number and the copy limit number and where the step of 20 updating the primary database includes updating the copy count number associated with the fingerprint.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising the steps of:

- comparing the sub-sequence fingerprint with at least one second reference fingerprint, said second reference fingerprint being fetched from a secondary database of fingerprints, yielding a second comparison value,
- depending on the second comparison value, storing the fingerprint in the secondary database, and where the step of updating the primary database includes updating with information from the secondary database.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1-3, where the updating of the primary database is dependent on whether or not the recording of the at least one media sub-sequence is completed.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1-4, where the obstruction of the recording includes at least one of the actions: aborting the recording, reducing the quality of the recording, notifying a user of the obstruction.

10 6. A method according to any one of claims 1-5, where the extraction of the sub-sequence includes extraction during a predetermined time interval, said time interval having a length determined at least partly by the type of the media sequence.

7. A digital media recorder capable of recording digital media sequences on a digital media carrier, comprising:
- means for extracting, from an input media sequence, a media sub-sequence,
- means for calculating a sub-sequence digital fingerprint from the media sub-sequence,
- means for comparing the sub-sequence fingerprint with at least one first reference fingerprint, said first reference fingerprint being fetched from a primary database of fingerprints, yielding a first comparison value,
- means for analyzing the first comparison value,
- means for recording the input media sequence on the media carrier,
- means for obstructing recording of the input media sequence on the media carrier,
- means for updating the primary database with information that the digital media sequence has been recorded on the media carrier.

8. A recorder according to claim 7, where the primary database of fingerprints includes a copy count number and a copy limit number associated with fingerprints in the list, where the means for comparing the sub-sequence fingerprint with the first reference fingerprint includes means for comparing the copy count number and the copy limit number and where the means for updating the primary database includes means for updating the copy count number associated with the fingerprint.

9. A recorder according to claim 7 or 8, further comprising:
- means for comparing the sub-sequence fingerprint with at least one second reference fingerprint, said second reference fingerprint being fetched from a secondary database of fingerprints, yielding a second comparison value,
- means for storing the fingerprint in the secondary database, and where the means for updating the primary database includes means for updating with information from the secondary database.

10 10. A recorder according to any one of claims 7-9, where the means for updating the primary database comprises means capable of establishing whether or not the recording of the at least one media sub-sequence is completed.

15 11. A recorder according to any one of claims 7-10, where the obstruction means includes obstructing means capable of at least one of the actions: aborting the recording, reducing the quality of the recording, notifying a user of the obstruction.

20 12. A recorder according to any one of claims 7-11, where the means for extraction of the sub-sequence includes mean for extraction during a predetermined time interval, said time interval having a length determined at least partly by the type of the media sequence.